

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 296
By Jordan

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study laws in other states relative to vicious canines.

WHEREAS, it is well settled that state and local governments possess inherent police powers to regulate anything harmful to the welfare of the public; state and local governments may, therefore, regulate the ownership, possession and use of dogs, especially those canines that pose a danger to the public; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have passed new laws or recently reassessed their existing laws relative to vicious or dangerous canines; in some instances this has been the result of serious dog attack incidents that have focused attention on the inadequacies of existing regulations or are attempts to address the problem before such an incident takes place; and

WHEREAS, some states other than Tennessee and certain local governments have deemed it appropriate to require special licensing, registration and inoculation of dangerous dogs; require proper confinement of such dogs; obligate owners to control, muzzle and spay/neuter these dogs; prescribe insurance or bond requirements to own such a dog; and provide for banishment of certain dangerous breeds; and

WHEREAS, as dogs play an increasingly complex role in our culture and changing social trends have resulted in widespread ownership of potentially dangerous animals, it is appropriate that members of this General Assembly, with an interest in protecting the citizens of

this state, examine laws enacted in other states, counties and municipalities relative to potentially harmful canines; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study laws in other states relative to vicious or dangerous canines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair and any officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, at the request of the committee, the various agencies and entities of state government shall assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundredth General Assembly by February 1, 1997; at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

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